

A | hard copy systems utilizing pigments, dyes, etc., such as an ink jet printer, an electrophotography, etc., have been mainly used as general image-forming systems but there are no systems, which can be satisfactorily used as an output system for medical treatment systems.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 19 and ending on page 4, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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A2 -- The present invention serves to solve the problems of the conventional techniques described above. That is, the present invention provides a photothermographic material excellent in the heat-developing property and image stock stability, which prevents the attachment of foreign matters such as dust, etc., causing white spots (a white spot is determined by visual observance using a magnifying lens on a Shaukasten wherein the sample has a density of 2.0) after heat development.--

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Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 3-8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

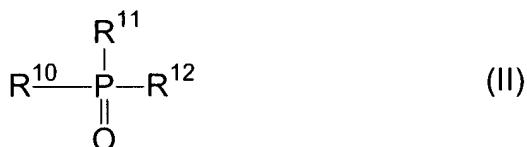
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A3 --As the result of intensively investigating the above-described problems, the present inventors have found that by using a surface active agent having a definite structure, the excellent photothermographic material giving the desired effects can be provided and have accomplished the present invention.--

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Please replace the second paragraph on page 5, lines 14-21 (counting each figure as a single line) with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Also, it is preferable that the photothermographic material of the invention further comprises a compound represented by the following formula (II):



wherein  $\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{R}^{11}$ , and  $\text{R}^{12}$  each independently represents an alkyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an amino group, or a heterocyclic group.---

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 1-9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It is preferable that the photothermographic material of the invention further comprises a compound represented by the following formula (III):



wherein Q represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a heterocyclic group, Y represents a divalent connecting group, n

a5 represents 0 or 1,  $Z^1$  and  $Z^2$  each represents a halogen atom, and X represents a hydrogen atom or an electron attractive group.--

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Please replace the paragraph on page 14, line 11 and ending on page 15, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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a6 --The photothermographic material of the invention comprises a light-insensitive organic silver salt. The organic silver salt, which can be used in the invention, is a silver salt, which is relatively stable to light but forms a silver image in the case of being heated to 80°C or higher in the presence of a light-exposed photocatalyst (a latent image of a light-sensitive silver halide) and a reducing agent. The organic silver salt may be an optional organic substance containing a source capable of reducing a silver ion. Such light-insensitive organic silver salts are described in paragraph numbers 0048 to 0049 of JP-A-10-62899, EP-A-0803764, page 18, line 24 to page 19, line 37 and EP-A-0962812. The silver salts of organic acids, and particularly the silver salts of long chain aliphatic carboxylic acids (having from 10 to 30, and preferably from 15 to 28 carbon atoms) are preferred. Preferred examples of the organic silver salt include silver behenate, silver arachidinate, silver stearate, silver oleate, silver laurate, silver caproate, silver myristate, silver palmitate, and the mixture of them. In the invention, in these organic silver salts, the use of organic acid silver having a content of silver behenate of at least 75 mol% is preferred.--

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